Newhalen Tribal Council
P.O. Box 207
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(907)571-1410

June 8, 2012

VIA EMAIL & FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ms. Lisa Jackson, Administrator
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Jackson.lisp@epa.gov

Mr. Dennis McLerran, Regional
Administrator
EPA Region X
RA 140
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
McLerran.Dennis@epamail.epa.gov

Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Docket (Mail Code 28225)
Docket #EPA-HQ-ORD-2012-0276
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20450
ORD.Docket@epa.gov

Re: Request for 120-day Extension of Time on Public Comment Period
       EPA Draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Native Village of Newhalen (NVN) requests a 120-day Extension of Time for public comment with respect to the DRAFT Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. NVN also requests meaningful consultation between the EPA and the Native Village of Newhalen in October with respect to the EPA draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment.

We are dismayed at the lack of meaningful consultation by the EPA, including the EPA's failure to produce for public access the more than 2,000 documents cited in the Assessment but not included. We also request meaningful scientific vetting and an opportunity for consultation that is meaningful.
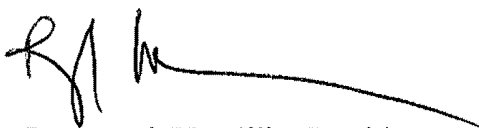
The present comment period occurs when the members of our village are engaging in subsistence activities and commercial fishing. Thus, the comment period is clearly inadequate. The inadequacy, if the comment period deadline of July 24 remains in place, will prohibit any meaningful comment or consultation.

I look forward to your earliest possible response.

Very truly yours,

Raymond Wassillie, President

cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski, Kristen_Daimler@murkowski.senate.gov
        Senator Mark Begich, Nellen_Budd@begich.senate.gov
        Congressman Don Young, Pamela.Day@mail.house.gov